

A. F. U. BULLETIN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF ALBERTA FARMERS' UNION

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"Those who would give up essential liberty
to purchase a little temporary safety deserve
neither liberty nor safety."

Benjamin Franklin.



Farm Women's Corner

Dear Ladies:-

May I get in my two cents worth, too? I would like to give my opinion on the formation of a Women's Section of the A. F. U. I am very much against it until we have a much larger lady membership. Should we form such an organization now, the locals where there are only a very few members would be at a great disadvantage. In many places there are only a few active members in a local and should they be divided, the men and women in a separate section, there would not be enough to carry on. Surely, we women have something worthwhile and constructive to add to the meetings besides the coffee and cake. Many women do not drive the family car and are dependent on the men folks to get her to meetings. This puts friend husband out to quite an extent when he should be in the fields. When our lady membership has been multiplied several times, then we can consider our own section.

We hear a great deal on the radio and read in the papers about real Canadians. Yet if your parents or grandparents come from the other side of the pond or across the line, you are not a Canadian but French Canadian, English Canadian, or what have you. Isn't it enough that I was born in Canada, lived all my life here? I never saw the old land. Canada is my home. When registering the birth of a child it is not sufficient that his parents were born in Canada. They must go back to grandparents, or great grandparents to establish another nationality so that child isn't Canadian but of English descent, German descent, or French descent. Isn't it time we insisted we were Canadians and our children, too? How many Canadian born generations must we have before we are Canadian

I agree with Mrs. Geddes that the ladies' banquet should be held before the last Convention day. Many others like myself had train connections to make and could not attend.

Mrs. 258.

Dear Ladies:-

Another contribution to Women's Corner from "Just a Member," and I trust that I may see many more interested ladies with their ideas. Why should we not form as large a membership as the men in our Union?

We women realize in the occupation, our husbands hold, we have to work and be in sympathy with his "Special ideas" of farming during hard and prosperous times; and we should realize what income is derived from the farm greatly

affects the necessities of life, not even to mention electric lights, inside water facilities which so few of us enjoy.

Take for instance "Educating our children in Secondary Schools," — the extra expense that goes with boarding them in towns or cities and taking them to and fro at week-ends and holidays, as the case may be, besides the anxiety for their welfare. And often a mile on muddy roads is far harder on the family car than it is to travel quite a few extra miles on a highway, and quite frequently we see a country scholar who is brilliant has to remain at home on the farm dormant on account of inadequate funds, or insufficient help at home, whereas urban children often earn enough money to buy their books, odd garments they take a special fancy to, sportswear, or even their entertainment, by selling newspapers and delivery of groceries after school hours. But where does the money come from when our country boys and girls enter High Schools in town or cities? Only from the meagre returns of the produce which is sold off the farm. There is a challenge Ladies! And who do we hold so dear to us — only our children — and of course their welfare, their **education**, for that is one thing which cannot be taken away from them once they achieved it. To live in this Modern World, parents should realize that, and keep their children in school after passing their Grade 8 as long as they can afford to.

Progressive homes are fundamentals of any country, and to up-keep these of course, means a fair price for our produce in order to keep preservation up to par, for we certainly have the elements to contend with.

We can insure for damage our crops from hail and receive the Prairie Assistance Act for drought as the case may be, but buildings have to receive that coat of paint at regular intervals besides repairing. Our homes need remodelling as fashion changes and labor saving devices come to our notice.

So there Ladies, I think I have only told you what you already know and why I think, we should make an effort to attend meetings with our husbands to see our grievances come to notice of the officials, so they can be placed in the proper channels to go before our governments.

This is a changing world and we must change with it. Our boys and girls will soon be back according to the war news, and we hope it won't be long.

To receive a fair portion of the National in-

come, we farmers can expect the boys to be fascinated by a living from the Soil. So keep rural life tops for them.

This Canada, untouched by war, eventually will be a haven of rest to shattered nerves of our fighting boys, and we women and men of Alberta endeavour to do our utmost for the rehabilitation of these boys. It's going to take some time before they get accustomed to the ordinary walks of civil life. So Ladies of our Farmers' Union get ready to welcome the boys return and the war brides and their families. If we get strong enough a decent living can be guaranteed to all the boys who finally get located when victory is ours.

Trusting to see the "Women's Corner" with idea of a "Better World in future," especially for our agriculture industry.

258.

CORRESPONDENCE

FARMERS LOOK OUT

Would like to say a word about the present farm problem, farm prices, in particular. Years ago I had built up a nice flock of chickens, two hundred in all, prices then were 30c a dozen in the summer and 60c a dozen in the winter months. At that price there was little profit. Then came the bad times, eggs dropped down to 5c a dozen. Well I gradually killed my chickens and ate them. The eggs I fed to small pigs and calves. I kept only 50 hens for my own use and have kept with-in that limit all the time. The price has never been up since.

Then there was cream, five gallons brought \$1.50. So again we did some reducing. We used to milk ten cows but now we only milk three. It saves a lot of hard work and expense and we stick to these three cows, no more.

Farmers, if all of you did the same thing as we have done, there would be no surplus. Take for instance last year when the meat rationing was put on, that was just another trick on the farmer. Today they tell us to keep the beef on the farm, they don't want it except the very best. How can we keep it when we are in need of food and clothing for the family? I am talking of the little farmer who cultivates 40 - 50 acres, he is the one that is hit good and hard. Next comes the pigs. you all know what they did to us farmers, again a trick, bonus. Well if you just take it and don't give it a thought well and good, but listen, we used to have quite a few A pigs before the bonus was put on but after, — there were no A pigs on our farm any more. Farmers, why all this talk, meetings, discussions, luncheons, banquets and what not, when we have the remedy right among ourselves, reduce, reduce every-

thing you have on the farm, all of you and the price will settle itself.

Here is what we did. We used to keep six sows, last year, we cut down to three and we intend to keep that limit. Farmers listen, it won't be very long before you will hear them urge us to raise more pigs. Be wise this time, don't be fooled. There is too much on the market already. How will it be when all the homecoming soldiers start to farm? Have you given them a thought? The egg market has been spoiled for a long time. Who is to blame? The farmers themselves. You all know what they did. Today they only want A eggs, the rest are worth nothing.

If you are waiting for the government to help you, you are on the wrong track. They have talked and talked for generations to help the farmer, — the backbone of the country, — it is a nice word and promises. You all should know. So if you keep on like you have increase, increase, you are heading for 5c a dozen for eggs, 10c a lb. for butterfat, \$3.00 for a 200 lb. pig. When you sit and listen to the radio, listen to all the announcements and what you should buy to make chickens grow, hens lay, pigs grow and so forth. Do you realize how little these folks know about what they are talking and did you ever stop to think what the concentrate is made of? Well, part of it is made from dockage of the farmers' cattle and pigs and they sell it back to the farmers at a big price? Do you really think that the stock need it? I could keep on forever but I will just say this: Let us go back to that time when an egg was an egg and a pig was a pig. Don't ruin ourselves by trying to raise something special, just because some fool tells you to. When the farmer asks for a better price, do they meet our demand? NO.

Abonnent.

We wish to express to Mr. Pickering, Secretary of North Kleskun Local No. 285, our deep sympathy in the loss of his two sons flying over Germany. Both of these boys were members of the Alberta Farmers' Union and we know that all our members join with us in our expression of sympathy and also in the hope that the time is near when the curse of war will no more afflict mankind.

Dear Sir:-

Please find enclosed postal note for the sum of \$8.75 covering one Senior membership fee; the balance of the money \$7.75 covering thirty-one paid up members of our local, at 25c per member, supporting the A. F. U. Action Fund.

We realize the importance of supporting such a fund, and we hope that every local will do their share towards the A. F. U. Action Fund.

Yours truly,

Wm. Cebuliak.

Northleigh, Alberta.

Dear Sir:-

The Deep Creek A. F. U. Local held their second meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Sullivan, on March the third. Called to order by Earl Kelly, secretary, and Andrew Sullivan, president. Ewalt Jersch was chosen vice-president, and about thirty-six people were present, and ten signed up as new members; three were transferred from Tomahawk and one from Rocky Rapids.

T. Hertle and Chris Reich from Tomahawk, gave us a good deal of help in getting our Local organized, and gave us a fine talk on the good that the A. F. U. has already done for the farmers. Chris Reich explained Credit Unions and told various jokes, all of which we found entertaining and interesting.

After all business was discussed and finished, Mrs. Sullivan served an excellent lunch, and the men gathered around various tables and finished the evening playing cards, while the ladies discussed children and household affairs and things that interest women.

The party finally broke up about 3:00 a. m. Ewalt Jersch offered to kiss the ladies all good-bye, but only one young lady accepted and availed herself of Ewalt's great kindness.

Our next meeting will be held at the home of Gus Dusterhoft on March 31st.

Wishing the Bulletin every success,

I am yours truly,

Local Scribe.

STUDY PAMPHLETS

We have been able to obtain a number of pamphlets from various sources each dealing with a subject of interest to a study club or a local of the Alberta Farmers' Union.

It is our thought that these will supply a need in the locals in the way of providing subjects for discussion in order to maintain interest in the locals.

The subjects dealt with are all matters of vital interest to farmers and are not just merely for the purpose of passing away the time.

However it should be borne in mind that these pamphlets are not being sent out with the idea that they represent the official viewpoint of the Alberta Farmers' Union. Neither do we claim that they even make the right approach or draw the right conclusion.

Our members are just as capable of discussing and analysing these subjects as anyone in the world, because there is no body of people with a more realistic approach to all problems than the farmer. The inviolable laws of nature apply to him and his work and he becomes accustomed to judging all things by its standard.

So we want you to discuss these subjects and if you feel that others besides farmers should enter in; this can be arranged by first concluding your A. F. U. meeting and then begin another meeting which will be open to all and take up the discussions presented.

We will try and discuss one of these subjects each month in the A. F. U. Bulletin and we will not pull any punches; but try to get right down to the roots. The truth is mighty and will prevail.

Following list can be obtained:

Markets and Men (specially recommended).

1. Income and Economic Progress.
5. Credit for Consumers.
8. This Question of Relief.
10. Doctors, Dollars and Disease.
14. Saving Our Soil.
25. Machines and Tomorrow's World.
42. Adrift on the Land.
43. Safeguarding Our Civil Liberties.
44. 59c of Your \$1.00 — The Cost of Distribution.
45. How Money Works.
46. Pensions After Sixty?
50. Credit Unions — The People's Bank.
63. More for Your Money.
67. Government Under Pressure.
68. The Crisis of Manpower.
73. After the War?
74. How Can We Pay for the War?
76. Workers and Bosses are Human.
77. Women at Work in Wartime.
79. The Beveridge Plan (Limited edition).
80. Freedom from Want: A World Goal.
84. Jobs and Security for Tomorrow.

We can supply these pamphlets at 10c each.

CASH AND MINUTE BOOKS

There have been a number of requests from time to time for Head Office to have printed a combined Cash and Minute Book for the convenience of our local secretaries.

We have made enquires and we could have such a book printed with durable binding which could be sold to locals for \$1.50, provided at least 700 were sold.

We would like to hear from all those secretaries who would be willing to buy such a book because the price is dependent entirely on the number we have printed.

If only a small number is required the cost per book would be much higher and it will be left to the judgment of the Executive in that case whether it would be advisable to have them printed.

Will all secretaries who are interested please advise us right away.

FARM YOUNG PEOPLE'S WEEK

University of Alberta, June 7th to 14th, 1945

The Alberta Wheat Pool has made arrangements to pay a portion of the cost for a certain number of farm boys and girls to attend this course.

This is the first year for the experiment and therefore is confined to the EVEN NUMBERED sub-districts of the Pool and if the plan succeeds the ODD numbers would be chosen next year.

Each EVEN numbered sub-district will be able to send one candidate and if there are a number of nominations, the names will be put into a hat and a draw will be made.

Any Local of United Farmers of Alberta, Alberta Farmers' Union, or any Farm Co-operative, and any other farmer organization which may be approved by the Board of Alberta Wheat Pool, located wholly or mainly within the boundaries of any even numbered sub-district may nominate one farm boy or girl between the ages of 16 and 27, inclusive, whose home is within the boundaries of such sub-districts, as a candidate for this grant. Such nominations must be signed by the President or Vice-President, and the Secretary of the Local Association making the nomination.

In accepting the nomination, the candidate will be required to sign a form pledging him or her to diligently apply himself or herself to the studies provided during the Course and to give a report, or a series of reports, in his or her community on return.

For further particulars of this scheme see your Wheat Pool agent.

It should be noted that any farm young people of Alberta, either boys or girls, between the ages of 16 and 27 inclusive, may attend this Short Course at their own expense. Information may be obtained by writing to the Department of Extension, University of Alberta, Edmonton.

Locals of the A. F. U. may, if they wish, sponsor a boy or girl and by raising a sufficient amount of money, enable one of their junior members to take advantage of this course. This would be independent of the arrangement made by the Pool.

— FOR SALE —

Hatching eggs from Mammoth Pekin Ducks.

Choice large stock.

\$2.00 per setting delivered free.

HENRY YOUNG

Millet - - - Alberta

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WHEN IS A PIG?

Primarily, a pig is a four-legged hand-spike that roams pretty much at will about a farm, upsetting the farmer's plans and just about everything else from fences to gardens.

The pig is a typical farm problem. As such, he is the farmer's baby. A problem child in every respect. Though a distinct asset to hungry humans, he is no asset on the farm, rather he usually manages to be a liability. Such is his nature that his departed soul becomes a Gremlin.

While under the farmer's profane and baffled care he is known as a pig. After other people get him he becomes known as a lot of other things, so we see that the name "pig" applies to that which is born of a sow while it remains the responsibility of some distraught farmer.

The outstanding peculiarity of a pig is that so long as he remains the farmer's baby he is a liability and as soon as he changes owners he becomes an asset. This is a fact borne out by history, and all statistics; save those compiled by the packers for the farmers to **not** understand.

The farmer's task is to produce large numbers of these embryonic Gremlins that other people might eat and wash and finally to convert the decided liability into an asset by selling him for a little more than the cost of the brute.

Rarely has he been successful. The farmer found that the few dollars he received were harder to keep in his pocket than the pig had been to keep in his pen. There were so many legal ways for people to take the money out of the farmer's pocket to pay the debts created by the pig, while no one at all wanted to take the pig — and his debt — out of the pen.

So the farmers tried to figure out ways to get a few more dollars for the pig. It couldn't seem to be done on the farm since the longer the pig stayed there the more of a debt he became. But the buyers who came to get him found the pig an asset.

So the idea of Co-ops was developed by one group. They created Shipping Associations and hauled their pigs co-operatively. And a few more cents per pig came home, so they put the Associations together and made a Marketing Agency. No more cash came home though. Basic Price and Grading did some gymnastics and the farmer's pig, though now called a commodity, was still a liability.

So the Co-ops were enlarged to include a packing plant. As the farmer's problem the Pig further extended himself and his trouble making ability. Economic warfare broke out between the Co-op and Private Industry. Many thousands of dollars were spent. Many farmers remained in poverty, many farms were given up to pay the pigs' debts. It just seemed that the longer a pig

remained a pig — that is, the farmer's care — the more debts he created.

But the farmers did it. They bought their own railways to save on transportation costs. They built their own steamships for the same purpose. They put selling agencies in all lands around the world. But they lost money just the same until competition was destroyed and the farmer at last could name the Price of the Pig.

I forget how many generations of farmers came and went and fought with the Pig and the world before this came to pass but no doubt it was many.

But other farmers too, wrestled early with the problems of the pig. They saw how the Pig remained a debt and a worry as long as the farmer owned him. They saw, too, that few farmers could take time out from mending broken fences long enough to master the problems created by the pig after he was past breaking fences. They saw how "managers" and "experts" of business and Finance often sold the farmer out on the market of Personal Ambition. They saw the Co-ops labor to build yards and plants and stores and utilities at their own expense when there already were enough of these things in the land to handle all the pigs.

So they chose and elected a new government, pledged to take control of all these existing services and make an end to exploitation by private monopoly. And they laughed and said: "The Pig is once again a Pig only on the farm. And he will be an asset!" We farmers will not need to worry about him when he has become Bacon and Ham and Soap and Fertilizer, and we got to Social Control faster than did the Co-ops!

But it was not to be. The pig had entered Politics. He proceeded to root the World inside out. The farmers found that the people whom they had elected had promised to protect the farmer from the Pig,—only to get elected, thereafter they became interested only in cheap pork chops.

And many farms were lost to pay the Pig's debts. And many farmers died in Poverty, though others ate the Pig. And the Pig remained a liability.

But certain other farmers also wrestled with the Pig and they said: "Let us learn from these others; let us get rid of the Pig as quickly as we can, thus saving ourselves much worry. There are men enough on Earth to worry about the Pig after he has left the farm. We care not who processes the Pig so long as the cost is fair. Nor do we care what Party grants us Parity — so we get it."

"We know that the world needs the Pig. We know that the workers expect to pay fairly for the parts of the Pig, and indeed are paying enough to give us our cost and profit. Therefore let us join a Union even as workers do and

refuse to sell the Pig for less than enough to pay his debts and our labor for he is the World's Pig — not just ours."

And let us talk with the workers who are the Eaters and together refuse to be exploited any more on either end.

And it was done. Some Co-ops remained because they helped, too. And some governments came into being to protect—because they had to.

And the Pig was no longer just the Farmer's problem. He became a World Asset.

Three roads there are. Are you going my way, Neighbor?

W. E. Wilson, (No. 418).

Sheep Shearing Equipment Supply

A fairly good supply of sheep shearing equipment is available for distribution this year, according to H. H. Bloom, farm machinery administrator for the Wartime Prices and Trade Board.

The number of units to be distributed is based on the recommendation of the Western Agricultural Engineering Committee and the distribution will be made in accordance with the farm machinery administration policy — a proportion of sales made during the years 1940, 1941, 1942.

Sugar Distribution Explained

In a review of the sugar ration regulations for 1945, the Wartime Prices and Trade Board remind rural housewives that while the first two of the twenty extra preserves coupons available for the purchase of sugar for canning became valid March 15th, they remain valid until further notice.

Although the extra preserves coupons are intended, primarily, to be used for the purchase of sugar for canning, they may be used instead to buy maple syrup or any other preserves.

On May 17th, a further eight extra preserves coupons will become available for the purchase of sugar for canning, and the remaining ten may be used on and after July 19th.

Each of the twenty extra preserves coupons is good for the purchase of one half pound of sugar, bringing the total of ten pounds of sugar for canning, the same as in 1944. Any or all of the valid preserves coupons may be used for the purchase of one half pound of sugar.

The important points to be remembered about the distribution of sugar during 1945 are as follows:

1—Twenty extra preserves coupons are being made available for purchase of sugar for canning on the basis of half pound of sugar per coupon.

2—Two of the extra coupons became valid on March 15th, eight are valid on or after May 17th, and ten are valid on or after July 19th.

3—Each preserves coupon is good for the purchase of either preserves or one half pound of sugar.

4—There are not sufficient orange coloured preserves coupons in the ration book to last for the entire year but when these are used up some other sheet of coupons will be declared preserves coupons.

SUB-DISTRICT MEETINGS

The Sub-District meetings in District No. 9 will be held on dates and places specified below.

Sub-District 1	June 6th. at Leduc.
Sub-District 2	June 8th, at Brooksona Hall.
Sub-District 3	June 7th, at Wood River Hall.
Sub-District 4	June 8th, at Warburg Hall.
Sub-District 5	June 9th, at Lackart Hall.

E. Aaserude, Secretary
District No. 9, A. F. U.

RE ACTION FUND

We have received a letter from Mr. Steve W. Starchuk, Secretary of Tororoutz of Smoky Lake Local No. 350 which has 119 members and they decided to assess each member 50c for Action Fund and have sent in \$60.00.

(This is real action. Ed.)

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Editorial

About 70 representatives of the many farmer organized associations in Alberta met at the Palliser Hotel in Calgary on 5th. April to welcome the United Kingdom Farmers delegation and discuss with them some of the problems which are already taking shape and which will be of great concern to Agriculture especially after the war.

The delegation consisted of six practical farmers all of whom hold prominent positions in the farmers' Union organization in Great Britain and Ireland and they are just completing a world tour which has taken them to Australia, New Zealand and the United States as well as Canada.

At Calgary a general meeting was held at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon to hear a talk given by Mr. Turner, who was the spokesman for the party in which he gave an outline of the purposes which the National Farmers' Union has in view and after his talk a discussion was carried on for about two hours.

The members of the delegation were introduced to the assembly by Mr. H. H. Hannam of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture who accompanied them across Canada.

Some of the information he gave us regarding the set-up and standing of the National Farmers' Union was very interesting to Canadians. They have an approximate membership of 225,000 and with a membership fee which is sixpence per acre farmed, or sixpence for every one pound of rental paid, gives them an annual income of 400,000 pounds or approximately two million dollars.

They work in with the British Department of Agriculture and exercise a considerable influence on that body. In fact Mr. Turner explained that the research branch of the Union insisted on testing out in a practical way any recommendations made by the government before they were passed on to the farmers as good farm practice.

He remarked that although they were quite willing to work in accord with the government yet they were ready to fight if the necessities of the situation demanded it.

The accomplishments of British Agriculture in the past five years have been wonderful and whereas before the war they produced 30% of their home requirements, they now produce almost 80%. However, Mr. Turner pointed out that they did not aim to continue to produce such a high percentage of their own requirements and as soon as the war finished they intended to get back to a more balanced production. By this Mr. Turner meant a proper rotation of crops which would not only maintain but continue to build up the fertility of their soil and one only needs to hold a few minutes conversation with these men to become aware of the tremendous importance they attach to this accomplishment.

With them it is not an economic practice to follow any system of farming which, although it may result in fair or good crops, interferes with the systematic building of the soil.

One cannot help but be impressed with the earnestness with which they view this important outcome of their operations and it would be well if we in this country were to take this lesson to heart and do likewise.

We have been prodigal in our use of the soil, — some of the best in the world — and as a result of some of our farming practices of the past we have not only been selling our farm produce too cheaply; but we have been giving away the fertility of our farms as well.

If a realization of this fact puts a stop to our wasteful and uneconomic practices and brings out the necessity of our farmers conserving the fertility of their soil for future generations then it will be realized that prices of farm produce which may be regarded as high in comparison with the past are only reasonable if we are going to conserve the fertility of our soil and hand on to the coming generation something at least almost as good as we found it.

Names of the members of the United Kingdom Farmers' delegation:

James Turner, President National Farmers' Union of England and Wales

S. O. Ratcliff, Past President.

Giles Toker, member of National Farmers' Union

Wm. Young, Senior Vice-President, National Farmers' Union and Chamber of Agriculture, Scotland

Geo. Irvine, Deputy President, Ulster Farmers' Union

Geoffrey S. Browne, Economist for National Farmers' Union.

Broadcast by H. Young

To-night I am going to devote the main part of this Broadcast to the subject of Rural Electrification in Alberta.

This is a subject of great interest and importance to farm people everywhere, and especially in Alberta where we are so interested in progress.

There are probably few farmers in this province who are not interested in the idea of abundant and cheap electricity on the farm. To the farm housewife it means real light at the turn of a switch, instead of the messy and dangerous coal oil or gasoline lamps. It means trouble-free and quiet power for the washing machine and electric iron, power to operate a water system under pressure, and electric refrigeration. In general, it brings the improvements of modern civilization to the farm home where they are so lacking today and in the past.

To the farmer himself, electricity means the modernization of the farmyard and a lower cost of operation. A hook-up with a power line means that in addition to ample light everywhere it is needed, all the power jobs now done by stationary engines can be taken over by electric motors at a large saving in operating costs. Even such heavy work as grinding grain can be done economically. Think of the time which could be saved by having electric power to run the pumps, the tool grinder, the fanning mill, etc., instead of doing it by hand or using the troublesome and expensive gas engine. No one can afford to use his own hand-power in competition with electricity. I will give you proof of this.

When electricity is purchased from a power line, the standard unit is the kilowatt hour. This is equal to about one and one-third horsepower.

I have in my possession the report of the Manitoba Electrification Enquiry Commission which investigated fully the question of Rural Electrification for Manitoba and reported in 1942. On this question of manpower versus electrical energy they make this statement on page 54, and I quote: "Normally one kilowatt hour of energy, can be purchased in most parts of Canada for five cents or less. Incredible as it may seem, this unit is equal to the muscle of a man pumping water for two working days, or lifting weights for about five days, or shovelling for about nine days." End of quotation.

It does seem almost incredible that a unit of power equal to nine days of a man's labor, can be purchased for five cents. However it goes to show the colossal waste of time involved in hand labor where electric power can be secured. Perhaps this is a basic reason why farmers have, in the past, had to accept a much lower basis of

returns for their time, than those in other industries.

At any rate, electric power on the farm should no longer be regarded as a luxury to be dreamed of by the many and attained only by a favoured few. It is a real necessity on a modern farm and quite attainable. Nor should the farmers of Alberta be left as in the past to their own resources in the matter of getting power. In 1941 there were only 505 farms in Alberta which were connected with power lines. This in a province with over one-hundred thousand farms, is a very poor showing. It is true that several thousand farms have their own windchargers or small gasoline-driven plants, but the first cost of these is excessive, the cost of operating the gasoline-driven plants is high, and depreciation of both batteries and plant soon mounts up.

The Manitoba Commission estimates the cost of power from wind-driven plants at nearly thirteen cents per kilowatt hour. As to the cost when generated by gasoline-driven plants the Kansas State College conducted tests on 102 plants. They give the average cost per kilowatt hour as 25.7. When you compare these high figures with the 2c per kilowatt hour which Ontario farmers pay, or even the comparatively high rate charged by the Calgary Power Company, it needs no argument to show the excessive expense of generating power on the farm. Then, too, the small plant can never produce enough power, to allow for that larger use which makes the farm most efficient. When you get power from a power line, the more you use the cheaper the rate. With your own plant you cannot afford to use very much. Farm plants and windchargers are a poor substitute for real power.

At this point it might be of interest to know how Canada and her Provinces compare with other countries in this matter of Rural Electrification. In this connection, we have to admit at once that Canada as a whole is one of the backward countries in the world. According to figures compiled by the Manitoba Commission less than 20% of Canadian farms were electrified in 1941. This figure includes private plants and windchargers which are not included in the figures for other countries. In the United States over 38% of the farms have central station power. In most Western European countries from 50% to 98% of farms had electricity before the war. In New Zealand about 93% of the farms are electrified.

Within Canada we have wide variations. Ontario farms are 37% electrified, and that practically all from power lines. On the other hand the figure for Alberta is given as 5.4%. To put

it another way, in 1941 59,000 farms in Ontario were connected to power lines, as against 505 in Alberta. Ontario is the only province in Canada to show real progress in Electrification, and the reason is not far to seek. About 1907, Ontario established its Provincial Hydro-Electric Commission and charged it with the job of developing a publicly owned system to provide service at cost to the people of the province both rural and urban. This has been so successful, that it now has over 20,000 miles of rural line and its 59,000 Rural Customers enjoy the benefit of an average service charge of only \$1.00 per month and an average rate of about 2c per kilowatt hour. Even after allowing for our more scattered settlement, is there any reason why we should not have an equally successful development in Alberta?

What about the resources of Alberta for the development of Electric Power? A casual glance at the map will show our great resources in water power, the cheapest source of electrical energy. Today, almost all of it, comprising millions of potential horsepower flows unhampered to the ocean. In fact the potential power in Alberta's rivers is far above any possible need. The only problem is to get it developed and distributed to where it is required at a rate which people can pay.

A report of the Committee of Conservation published in 1915, lists 58 power-sites in Alberta, no less than 15 of these being on the Athabasca River. The Athabasca alone if properly developed would furnish light and power for all the farms of Alberta.

Hydro-electric power is the cheapest power in the world. While it costs a lot to build a dam and a power plant together with transmission lines, once it is put into service the power is a free gift of nature as long as the rivers run. While other sources of power such as oil, are being used up, the water continues its endless round. It is up to us as sensible human beings to make use of what is now a wasted resource.

Then too, we have another available source of power. We have the great coalfields of Alberta. Steam plants to generate electricity located right at the mines, and linked up with a province-wide hydro system, would make a completely effective system all the year round. The steam plants could be drawn upon whenever necessary, and would, if needed, supplement the hydro set-up in the season of low water. This would make a really 100% efficient system, and it can be done.

Alright; the farmers of Alberta want electric power. We have the potential resources. How it is to be done and who will do it? Also and to the older ones most important, when will it be done?

Alberta has now been a Province for forty years. We have electrified 505 farms up to 1941,

or an average of 14 per year. At this rate it will take over seven thousand years to electrify the hundred thousand farms which we have at present. We evidently need action.

How shall this be done? Shall this province step boldly out as old Ontario did in 1907 and develop our own Hydro-electric system under public ownership? Or shall we leave it to the private power companies who have failed so completely to give farmers any service in the past?

The stand of the Alberta Farmers' Union on this question has been clearly stated at the last two Conventions, and I will quote the Action Program on the subject. I quote: "A comprehensive plan of Rural Electrification to cover the main settled areas of the Province should be undertaken as soon as materials are available. This should be developed by the Provincial Power Commission as a public enterprise on the basis of service." End of quotation.

This is the official policy of the A. F. U. A publicly owned system, province-wide, to provide electric power at cost. It is a good policy; one which has stood the test of time wherever it has been tried. In Ontario the Provincial Hydro-Electric Commission has brought power to 59,000 farms. Cheap power for the Ontario farmer, has given him a great advantage over us in many ways. It is a significant fact that no Canadian province has made any real progress toward Rural Electrification under private ownership.

Manitoba has had a power commission since 1919. They have built a network of lines which now serve 19,000 customers mostly in towns and villages. As soon as the war is over they are preparing to launch a program to electrify 25,000 farms in the next ten years, and more later.

Saskatchewan, while not nearly so well fixed for power resources as either Manitoba or Alberta, is also preparing to take action for their farmers. Is Alberta going to lag behind?

In Alberta we have a Power Commission set up just last year. We have one private company which has monopolized the field for many years but has provided practically no service to farmers even along its lines.

We are opposed to the building up of a private Power Monopoly in Alberta. In some of the States where this has been done, the Power Interests have become a major factor in the corruption of public life. President Roosevelt with his great projects for the development of publicly owned power, such as Boulder Dam and the Tennessee Valley Project, had done much to break their hold.

In his address before our recent Annual Convention Mr. Morton Thompkins said, and I quote: "We in the Grange in the United States have steadfastly fought for the provision that the natural resources of the country belong to the people. We have in the west particularly the

idea of going out and fighting our public ownership of power, and one reason I am hurrying back is that they are trying to scuttle our share while I am gone." End of quotation.

The farmers of Alberta cannot afford to pay profit prices to Private Interests for their power. Only our Power Commission can give us power at cost. Power at cost, we must have.

This is the time when the plans for action on Rural Electrification should be going forward. Construction should begin just as soon as materials are available. It will take years to complete, so an early start is essential. Many of us have waited twenty years and more for power. We are ready to give credit to any government which acts. But we want action now, not in the time of our grand-children.

The speed with which we get action will depend largely on us farmers. If we show we mean business, we will get action. If we take no interest, there will be nothing done.

The Alberta Farmers' Union is going to use its influence to get action on Rural Electrification. Our influence will grow as our membership grows. If you want the great boon of cheap power and light on your farm, come into this Union and help us fight for it. If you want anything done, organization is the way to get it. As individuals, we cannot solve any of our economic problems. Collective action is the only way.

Good Night.

Synopsis of Executive Meeting

Held April 3rd and 4th, 1945, in Head Office

The Committee which had interviewed the Minister of Municipalities regarding the Collection of Fees by Taxation reported that the Minister replied, that regulations are already in force whereby Municipalities may make "grants" if they wish, and suggested that he again be contacted by the Committee with a view to getting a straw vote from several Municipalities.

The matter of the new provincial assessment was also taken up. It is not for the purpose of raising taxes, but the Department would like to have a common base for the purpose of making provincial grants and also to have a complete picture of the relative value of farm land.

The matter of the visit by the delegates of the National Farmers' Union was discussed, and it was decided that all members of the A. F. U. Executive together with the Secretary be appointed as a delegation to attend the conference held under the auspices of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture at Calgary, on 6th April, 1945.

A memorandum was drawn up for presentation to the N. F. U. by the A. F. U. (This appears elsewhere).

Replies were received from various Co-Ops

stating their intentions of taking advertising space in the A. F. U. Bulletin in reply to our solicitation.

A letter was written to the Secretary of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture, pointing out the importance of Agriculture in the Canadian economy, and requesting that representations be made by the C. F. A. to the Prime Minister to include among the delegates to the San Francisco Conference a representative from organized Canadian Agriculture.

A report from the Committee which was appointed to collect evidence re the Pembina flood was received.

The farmers concerned did not wish to start an action for damages, but they were in favor of the Union making representations to the Board of Railway Commissioners in order to compel the Railway Company to provide more adequate outlets for flood waters so as to guard against a repetition in future. They were prepared to contribute towards such action.

Tender for printing of the Action Program accepted and 10,000 copies to be printed. These to be sold at 10c each.

SYNOPSIS REPORT OF BOARD MEETING OF DISTRICT No. 1 A. F. U.

The Board of Directors of District No. 1, A. F. U. met in the Rycroft Hotel on February 25th, to discuss and plan organization work.

Members in attendance were:-

L. Hawkes, Dimsdale, District Director.
J. J. A. Pratt, Royce, Vice-President.

also

J. Hawthorne, Albright; M. D. Kehr, Grande Prairie; M. Diederich, Glen Leslie, and P. W. Burn. Royce, directors for sub-districts 1, 2, 3 and 5 respectively.

Mr. Shofterner, Northmark, director for sub-district No. 4, did not attend.

The meeting got under way with Mr. J. J. A. Pratt acting as chairman, in the absence of President R. C. Scott of Spirit River.

It was moved by Mr. Burn that the agenda be accepted as a guide; seconded by Mr. Kehr. Carried.

The agenda called for the appointment of a Budget Committee but it was decided to have the Board as a whole deal with the budget.

Following the acceptance of the Financial Statement as read by the Secretary V. Franks; consideration was given to ways and means of using accumulated funds to give the greatest benefit to the district and the organization as a whole. Moved by J. Hawthorne, seconded by P. W. Burn.

Other appropriations: Board meetings \$150, Secretary's salary \$50, organization work \$200.

It was felt that to serve the best interests

of the Union, all members of the Board of Directors should attend the Annual District Conventions. To facilitate this, it was moved by D. M. Kehr, seconded by M. Diederich, that expenses of Board members incurred through attendance at District Annual Conventions, be paid from district funds. Carried.

A discussion on re-drafting the boundaries of sub-districts 1, 2, 3 to provide a more equitable distribution of territory under the supervision of sub-directors.

As the territory east of the big Smokey River, to Valley View, now allotted to District 2, is isolated from the rest of District No. 2 and can be more easily reached from the west; its inclusion in District No. 1 was unanimously approved.

Moved that a speaker or speakers be brought in from Edmonton and that four meetings sponsoring guest speakers be held in each of the five sub-districts. Carried. Each sub-director to ascertain most suitable times for meetings by June 1st and have the schedule ready to be presented at the next Board meeting which will be held on June 15th at Fairview.

Schedule of these meetings will be published in the Peace River Record, Fairview Post, Grande Prairie Herald-Tribune and also in the A. F. U. Bulletin.

Meeting adjourned.

Mrs. Vera Franks.

Secretary District No. 1.

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ACTION FUND

At the last Annual Convention it was suggested that we assess ourselves the sum of 25c per member to build up an Action Fund so as to put the Union in a position to take legal action on any matter of general interest to farmers if this should be necessary.

Such a fund would not be used to take up law suits and grievances for individual farmers and this should be distinctly understood.

A case of considerable interest to many hundreds of farmers occurred in the Pembina Valley area this past summer, where a large number of farmers had considerable loss owing to the flood conditions which prevailed. According to the evidence we have obtained, it seems that the building of a railway embankment may have aggravated the effects of the heavy rains owing to the water being held back by this embankment.

Although many farmers in this district have suffered severe damage because of this flood, some of them suffering losses amounting to thousands of dollars, they do not wish to start an action for damages but they would like to have the railway compelled to provide an outlet for flood waters as prevailed before the embankment was built so as to guard against a repetition of the disaster in the future. The Union is hoping to bring enough pressure to bear in the right quarter to get this accomplished. This is a sample of the use to which our Action Fund may be put.

If your Union is to do this it must have funds for the purpose because if we start we do not wish to have to back up for lack of money.

A very small contribution from each member will make a considerable fund. For instance, 25c per member would equal \$5,000.00.

If a case such as this can be brought to a successful conclusion it may remove the necessity of many farmers from taking action to protect themselves and you could not take such action individually for many hundred times 25c.

Some of our locals have already taken action and sent in their contributions. Local No. 350 especially have voluntarily assessed themselves 50c per member and sent in \$60.00.

Discuss this matter in your local and if you want your Union to put up a real fight when it is necessary, be prepared to do your bit (four bits if you like).

NOTICE

Just as we are going to press we learn that definite arrangements are being made by the delegation representing the National Farmers' Union and officials of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture for an international Conference of farm organizations in England next October.

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Says N. W. Preston
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Signed Harry Hays.

I have been well satisfied with results obtained from using Money-Maker Feeds. They are very good and better than other brands I've used.

Sgd. "Con" Tront, Holden, Alta.

I wish to express my firm belief in results obtained since using your Money-Maker Feeds. I recommend them to everyone.

Sgd. Mrs. D. Dow, Champion, Alta.

I have been using Money-Maker Hog Concentrate for the last year and find it very satisfactory in every way, and it has saved considerable money in feed bills.

Sgd. A. D. Lee, Etzikom, Alta.



I have used Money-Maker Hog Concentrate and Pig Starter for past year and I am pleased to say I am very well satisfied with results obtained.

Sgd. J. M. Bjornstad, Evansburg, Alta.

This is to certify that I have used your Pig Starter, Pig Grower and Hog Concentrate and find them all you say they are. I heartily recommend them.

Sgd. S. R. Craig, Carmangay, Alta.

I had hogs on the market six to eight weeks sooner than ever before and I believe the advantage gained was procured by using Money-Maker Pig Starter and Pig Grower.

Sgd. J. F. Kelly, Bulwark, Alta.

I have used Money-Maker Hog Concentrate and Sow and Pig Starter Supplement and I am quite satisfied. I recommend them highly to any stockman.

Sgd. A. Hagen, Evansburg, Alta.

Since I have been using Money-Maker Hog feeds I can safely say I get all selects and odd bacons on the market in 5½ to six months.

Sgd. "Joe" Cienkowski, Vilna, Alta.

I would like you to know what good results I've had by feeding Money-Maker Hog Concentrate. Troubled with Rheumatism, my hogs improved right away and brought premium grades at market time.

Sgd. P. H. Oliver, Morrin, Alta.

I got wonderful results feeding your Money-Maker Chick Starter, Growing Mash and Concentrate. It is a pleasure to say that anyone using your feed will never regret it.

Sgd. Z. W. Mikitka, Vilna, Alta.

I used your Money-Maker Turkey Starter last spring and raised over eighty fine birds. My neighbors use Money-Maker and speak highly of its merits.

Sgd. Mrs. J. Daly, Bulwark, Alta.

I used Money-Maker Chick Starter and Chick Grower and I can honestly state that I have never had better luck with my chicks.

Sgd. Mrs. V. Teskey, Carmangay, Alta.

The Money-Maker Chick Starter I purchased from your agent was very satisfactory. The chicks thrived and grew and I had very small losses.

Sgd. A. J. Prendergast, Evansburg.

I have used your Money-Maker Hog Concentrate and I believe its cost is more than offset by savings in grain, and pigs reach market conditions much sooner.

Sgd. R. H. Sampson, Kirriemuir.



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WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

The McDougall royal commission investigating the taxation of co-operatives was appointed as a result of a controversy extending over several years between the wheat pools and the minister of finance over the proposed application of federal income taxes to farm co-operative associations.

The wheat pools maintain that true co-operatives make no profits and that any excess earnings are really overcharges, properly returnable to patrons.

There was no mention of federal income taxation as long as the wheat pools were in deep financial difficulties. In 1937 when the Turgeon Grain Commission was holding sittings the matter was brought up by the president of the United Grain Growers, who claimed that the wheat pools should be made liable to federal income tax.

The grain trade then conducted a lobby at Ottawa with the objective of getting the wheat pools taxed. They hired one of Canada's outstanding accountants to go over the pools' books and submitted a brief to the government calling for pool taxation.

The wheat pools might have made a compromise, but they took the stand that the whole matter of the application of income tax to co-operatives should be definitely determined. It is not only the fate of the pools that is in the balance but of every co-operative association in the Dominion of Canada.

The minister of finance then announced the appointment of a royal commission to inquire into the matter, saying at the same time: "There has never been any disposition on the part of the taxing authorities to question the general principle (**that savings effected by a co-operative on behalf of its members are income and therefore not taxable**) but the real problem is as to its application. For instance, the questions that have arisen relate to such points as what is a co-operative, what are savings, and what constitutes an allocation?"

(Note: The words in brackets in the above paragraph are ours).

Prior to the sittings of the McDougall commission in Western Canada the Income Tax Payers Association became very active. This organization was formed a short time ago with headquarters in Winnipeg, its president being G. S. Thorvaldson, a Winnipeg lawyer. It is a replica of an organization previously formed in the United States and headed by a wealthy grain man. The wheat pools maintain it is more or less a grain trade creation.

Mr. Thorvaldson busied himself addressing boards of trade throughout Canada, in the course of which attacks were made on the wheat pools and other farm co-operatives. Obviously, he was trying to create favorable public opinion prior to the sittings of the taxation commission.

The wheat pools maintain advantage is being taken of the situation to endeavor to discredit all farm co-operatives so that they may be rendered innocuous or completely destroyed. The main attack, of course, is against the wheat pools.

This explanation is given in order that farm people may have an idea of what is going on.

Alberta Wheat Pool